

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LONDON 10758 191751Z

44

ACTION MC-02

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 NEA-10 ISO-00 PM-07 CIAE-00 DODE-00

H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01

SPC-03 SS-15 USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-13 OMB-01 TRSE-00

EB-11 COME-00 DRC-01 /154 W
----- 007146

R 191711Z SEP 73

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4086
INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
USINT CAIRO

C O N F I D E N T I A L LONDON 10758

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MILI

SUBJECT: SEAKING HELICOPTERS - SALE TO EGYPT

REF: STATE 180990

1. PER REFTTEL ON SEPT. 14 WE CLARIFIED THAT USG IS
OPPOSED PER SE TO WESTLAND SALE OF SEAKING HELICOPTERS,
WHICH CONTAINS HARDWARE AND TECHNOLOGY DERIVED FROM A
U.S. LICENSING AGREEMENT AND THEREFORE REQUIRES PRIOR
USG EXPORT APPROVAL FOR SALE TO THIRD COUNTRIES, TO
EGYPT IN CONVERSATION WITH BRADEN OF MOD. HE TOOK
OUR STATEMENT UNDER ADVISEMENT BUT INDICATED US POSITION
ON THIS POINT PROBABLY WOULD NOT CHANGE HMG DECISION ON
APPROVING SALE.

2. ON SEPTEMBER 18, R. ANDERSON (MOD) ASST. UNDER
SECRETARY - SALES) INFORMED US BY LETTER THAT A CONTRACT
BETWEEN HMG AND THE SAUDI ARABIAN GOVERNMENT (SAG) HAD
BEEN SIGNED FOR THE SUPPLY TO EGYPT FROM THE WESTLAND
FIRM OF A NUMBER OF SEAKING AND COMMANDO HELICOPTERS
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PAGE 02 LONDON 10758 191751Z

(A TROOP CARRYING VERSION OF THE SEAKING). THIS

TRANSACTION, PART OF THE SAG'S MILITARY AID PROGRAM TO EGYPT, WAS DONE AS A GOVERNMENTAL CONTRACT BETWEEN THE HMG AND SAG AT THE LATTER'S EXPRESS REQUEST. SAG PREFERRED THIS TO FINANCING A DIRECT SALE FROM THE WESTLAND FIRM TO EGYPT.

3. MR. ANDERSON'S LETTER INDICATED THAT THE HMG HAS BEEN FULLY AWARE OF THE NATURE OF THIS TRANSACTION AT ALL STAGES AND REPEATS THAT HMG EXPORT CONTROLS REQUIRE, IN THIS INSTANCE AND ANY FUTURE ONES, THAT WESTLAND OBTAIN HMG APPROVAL BEFORE MAKING SALES OF MILITARY HELICOPTERS.

SOHM

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30 JUN 2005

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